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When Signed.*

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.

0403

SUBJECT : Proposed Reductions in Service Attache Staffs Abroad

1. For some time the Central Intelligence Agency has been disturbed by inadequacies in the flow of information from intelligence collecting facilities in the field. Service attache reporting has been an important factor in alleviating this situation, but it has now come to our attention that current plans of the Department of Defense will, if implemented, bring about an over-all reduction of approximately 35% in the officer strength of service attache staffs, and corresponding reductions throughout the rest of these staffs.

2. The Central Intelligence Agency's comments on this proposal, including general observations and specific recommendations on individual posts, are contained in the attachment.

3. It is believed that the proposal, by sharply reducing field reporting facilities, would have a most harmful effect on the ability of this Agency to fulfill its responsibilities for the production of national intelligence. It is felt that the serious implications of such a step for the US intelligence effort are of sufficiently critical importance for me to bring this matter to your attention without delay.

4. I therefore recommend most strongly that the Department of Defense be directed to withhold further action to implement this proposal until a study can be made by Central Intelligence Agency of the minimum requirements of an overt collection system.

Attachment:

Appendix A

Distribution: ONE/S-PP/PAN/JW

Addressee O&I COAPS 1

Director 1 AD/ORE 1

Chief of Staff 1 S-PP

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